

Application No. 10/755,244

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1 – 20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 14 – 17 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (US Patent No. 6,206,503) ("Kimura"). Applicant has canceled claim 16. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

In claim 12, Applicants recite a drop emitting device that includes a non-slanted pair of nozzles aligned along an X-axis and substantially parallel to a Y-axis that is orthogonal to the X-axis, and a slanted pair of nozzles offset along the X-axis so as to be slanted relative to the X-axis. The slanted pair of nozzles is displaced from the non-slanted pair of nozzles along the Y-axis, and emit drops of a first color and drops of a second color different from the first color.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claim 12 as the Examiner has not shown that Kimura anticipates claim 12. Specifically, the Examiner has not shown that Kimura discloses a slanted pair that emit drops of a first color and drops of a second color, wherein the second color is different from the first color. The slanted nozzles identified by the Examiner in claim 1 are both black. Therefore, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of claim 12.

The Examiner should allow claims 14, 15, and 17 if claim 12 is allowed as claims 14, 15, and 17 depend from claim 12.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Torgerson et al. (US Patent No. 6,523,935) ("Torgerson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons given with respect to claim 12, the Examiner should allow claim 13 as claim 13 depends from claim 12.

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Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Bloomberg (US Patent No. 6,425,653) ("Bloomberg"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Examiner should allow claims 18 and 19 if claim 12 is allowed as claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 12.

Claims 1, 3 ~ 7, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda et al. (US Patent No. 6,502,921) ("Kanda") in view of Usui et al. (US Patent No. 6,033,058) ("Usui"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In claim 1, Applicants recite in relevant part a drop emitting device that includes a first linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel first columnar arrays of drop emitting nozzles. The first linear array extends along an X-axis, and the first columnar arrays are oblique to the X-axis. Each first columnar array of drop emitting nozzles include a first linear sub-column of N nozzles that is interleaved with and substantially parallel to an associated second linear sub-column of N nozzles so as to form N first pairs of nozzles, wherein N is greater than 1. Each first pair of nozzles includes a nozzle from the first linear sub-column and an adjacent nozzle from the second linear sub-column. The first linear sub-columns of nozzles emit drops of a first color and the second linear sub-columns of nozzles emit drops of a second color

The Rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn as the Examiner has not established that the prior art discloses all the elements of claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner has not established that the prior art discloses a first linear sub-column of N nozzles that is interleaved with and substantially parallel to an associated second linear sub-column of N nozzles so as to form N first pairs of nozzles. The Examiner asserts that the limitations are disclosed in Figure 5. However, Kanda appears to show two two-dimensional arrays of nozzles. Two-dimensional arrays of nozzles are not new. The Examiner appears to assert that you can define the nozzles as being interleaved by classifying them into two groups regardless of whether those two groups differ in any manner. Given that all the nozzles of element 11 in Figure 5 are connected to the same reservoir and eject the same color ink,

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classifying them as being interleaved appears to be somewhat arbitrary. For the foregoing reasons, the Examiner should withdraw this rejection to claim 1.

Claims 3 – 7 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 3 – 7 depend from claim 1.

In claim 20, Applicants recite a drop emitting device that includes a first linear array of columnar arrays of first nozzle pairs, the first linear array extending along an X-axis and the columnar arrays of first nozzles extending obliquely to the X-axis. The nozzles of each first nozzle pair are aligned along the X-axis. One nozzle of each first nozzle pair emits drops of a first color and another nozzle of each first nozzle pair emits drops of a second color different from the first color.

The Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claim 20 as the Examiner has not shown that the combination of Kanda and Usui disclose all the elements of claim 20. Specifically, the Examiner has not shown that either Kanda or Usui discloses one nozzle of a nozzle pair that emits drops of a first color and another nozzle of the nozzle pair that emits drops of a second color different from the first color. The Examiner identifies the nozzle pairs as being part of nozzle array 20 in Kanda. However, the passage cited by the Examiner to support first and second colors plainly states that all the nozzles in array 12 are the same color. Therefore, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection to claim 20.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda in view of Usui as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Eriksen (US Patent No. 5,079,571) ("Eriksen"). Claim 2 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claim 2 depends from claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 – 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. For now, Applicants have chosen to forego amending claims 8 – 11 in view of the arguments made herein.

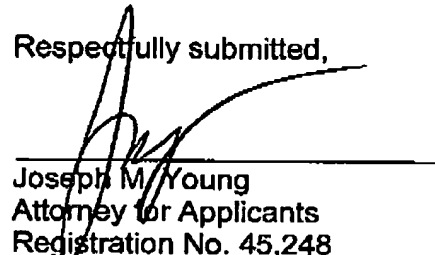
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Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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